Sale of foodgrains through PDS

†2608. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of foodgrains through Public Distribution System has been reducing continuously for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the sale through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The off-take of foodgrains from the central pool under the Public Distribution System, for the last three years are given below:

Year	Off-take under PDS (in lakh tonnes)
2000-2001	117.89
2001-2002	135.67
2002-2003	198.15

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps have *inter alia* been taken by the Government of India to improve off-take under PDS:

(1) The CIP of foodgrains for BPL category has not been changed for the last three years;

(2) The scale of issue has been increased to 35kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1st April, 2002.

Besides instructions have been issued to the State Governments for enforcement of the following:

(i) Regular opening of the Fair Price Shops;

(ii) Regular supply and ensuring adequate availability of foodgrains to FPSs at all times;

(iii) Allowing PDS consumers to draw the foodgrains in instalments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.